by which the price of rice goes up? The moment you export one type of foodgrains, its price goes up in the market. Will the Government take into account this aspect?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, this is always being done. It is not that we export when there is a serious shortage. At the same time it has to be kept in view that to retain the presence steadily in the export market there should be no switch-off and switch-on. That is why it may so happen in the international market sometimes that we export and import the same commodities to maintain a balance for the domestic requirement and also to keep an eye on the prices of particularly sensitive items like foodgrains. But, Sir, it would not be possible for me to give any blanket assurance that there would be no import of non-basmati rice because it has been clearly established that access to external market would ensure better prices to farmers also so that there can be incentive to them. In reply to an earlier supplementary I have already mentioned that though we are exporting some varieties of rice, we are also importing some other varieties of rice to maintain the balance.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : सर, मिनिमम एक्सपोर्ट प्राइस की शर्त लगाकर किसानों की चीजें बाहर भेजने के ऊपर यह शर्त, यह रोक लगती है । इसमें बासमती के चावल का खास महत्व है । जब इसमें यह शर्त लगती है तो जो लोग एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं वे वास्तव में कम दामों में कर रहे हैं । लेकिन प्राइस कांट्रेक्ट में ज्यादा दिखाकर वे इस शर्त को पूरा करते हैं । इससे एक्सपोर्ट कम हो रहा है और यहां प्राइस नीचे आ रही है । यह इसलिए नहीं कि वास्तव में यहां प्राइस नीचे हैं । यह मूल कारण है जो ये इसको ऐसा कर रहे हैं । इसलिए जो ये शर्तें हैं उनको टोटली तौर पर उठाना देश के हित में है । तो क्या इन्हें जल्दी उठाया जाएगा ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, so far as the minimum export price is concerned, some representations have been received, and just now it would not be possible for me to indicate what decision Government will take.

Child Labour in Glass Bangle factories at Ferozabad

Child labour in Glass Bangle factories at Ferozabad

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India dated March 26, 1993, captioned "Playing with hot glass for Rs. 30 per day", narrating the pathetic stories of children working as labour in glass factories at Ferozabad; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken during the last two years for the liberation of the bonded child labour and for welfare of other child workers in the glass bangle factories at Ferozabad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Child Labour in Glass Bangle Factories at Ferozabad

Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 there is no distinction between Adult and Child Bonded labour. As on 31-3-92, 2,50,289 bonded labourers have been identified of which 2,23,141 have been rehabilitated. There is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which the State Govts are provided 50% financial assistance for rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Under the Scheme financial assistance is given at the rate of Rs. 6250 per bonded labour.

Legislative provisions have been made in various laws to protect children from

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sushilkumar Sambhajirao Shinde.

exploitation at work and to improve their working conditions. In addition, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in certain hazardous occupations and processes and regulate their employment in some other areas.

A National Policy on Child Labour has been formulated in 1987 which apart from enforcement of legal provisions envisages focussing on general development programmes for the benefit of child labour and project-based plan of action in areas of high concentration of child labour. National Child Labour Projects have been set in nine areas including in Ferozabad for child labour in glass industry. At present 10 special schools are running in Ferozabad for child labour withdrawn from the glass industry.

Financial assistance to voluntary organisations is provided for taking up action-oriented projects. In addition, with ILO's assistance, two projects for tackling the problem of child labour within the framework of national policy, namely IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour) and CLASP (Child Labour Action and Support Programme) have also been taken up.

श्री सुशीलकुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे : सभापति महोदय, मैं पहले यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमने यह पूछा था कि :

> "whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India dated March 26, 1993."

It has not been mentioned in the reply whether the Government has given any attention to the conditions of these persons. That has not been clarified, but in general it has been said that a distinction cannot be made between the bonded labour and the child bonded labour.

सर, मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि इंटरनेशनल लेबर आर्गनाइजेशन और मास्को कन्वेंशन के बाद भी सरकार डिस्टिक्शन नहीं करना चाहती है तो हम क्या न्याय इन बच्चों को दे सकते हैं जो कि खेलने की उम्र में जिन हाथों में टाएज होने चाहिए उनमें टूल्ज हैं, वे फिरोजाबाद की फैक्टरी में ट्वायलिंग कर रहे हैं और अभी जिन पर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है । किस तरह का डिस्टिक्शन हम करना चाहते हैं । इसलिये मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूं कि इसका डिस्टिक्शन करने की जरूरत है ? चाइल्ड लेबर और बोंडेड लेबर में डिस्टिक्शन करने की बहुत जरूरत है । इसलिये मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जब आपने फिरोजाबाद एरिया में दस स्कूल लगाये हुए हैं तो इन दस स्कूलों में आपका सर्वे क्या कहता है यदि वहां चाइल्ड लेबर जाते हैं ? उस स्कूल से चाइल्ड लेबर जाते हैं या नहीं ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, part (a) of the question was whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report. I have answered, "Yes, Sir." Government's attention has been drawn. So, I think, I am perfectly right. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : What has been done after the attention has been drawn ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Part (b) is the most important thing. Not only Government's attention but, I think, the attention of the entire House has been drawn to the newspaper report because every morning we read newspapers. As far as Ferozabad is concerned, our reports say that 252 registered factories, both in bangles and glass, are there, where child labour is employed. In these factories, it is estimated that 3,134 are child labour. I do not subscribe to this view. I am only talking about the record. I do not subscribe to this view because I have myself made a surprise visit to Ferozabad, visited a number of factories there, talked to the children, talked to the district administration. Of course, that was way back in 1987. Therefore, I have a fair idea of what is going on in Ferozabad. Sir, it is a very sad state of affairs there. I have seen it with my own eyes. A lot of things have to be done. After my visit we started doing some work. I am not satisfied with

the work. We started running ten schools to give them informal education. It is not enough. We are also trying to have a health care programme for them. That is also not enough. Much more needs to be done. Just last week we had a meeting of the National Advisory Board on Child Labour. So, we are trying to review the whole thing. In fact, I have announced that we are going to convene a national conference on the problem of child labour. So, we propose to take up this problem at the national level. Because this problem is very acute and everyone is concerned, I am proposing to call a conference on this issue.

As far as the distinction of the child bonded labour and the other bonded labour is concerned, the legal position is that the Act, as on today, does not make any distinction between the child bonded labour and the other bonded labour. But the conditions of bonded labour, who are adult and who are children are certainly different. And as far as our national policy towards the child labour is concerned, I do agree with the hon. Member that we must have a separate policy on child labour who may be bonded or may not be bonded, but for the purpose of welfare of children, I think we must have a separate policy. I do agree with the hon. Member.

श्री सुशीलकुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो अच्छा काम किया है, इसके लिए मैं उनको बधाई और धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं। मंत्री महोदय ने स्वयं फिरोजाबाद जा कर अधिकारियों को निर्देशित किया है और खुद भी निर्देशित हो गये हैं। (व्यवधान) 1987 में गये थे तब यह डिपार्टमेंट उनके पास था। उसके बाद अब दोबारा उनके पास यह विभाग आ गया है इसलिए अब इस तरफ विशेष ध्यान दे सकते हैं। जैसे मैंने पहले कहा है कि एग्रीकल्चर मजदूरों के बारे में आपने कानून पास किया है। कई जमींदारों के पास छोटे-छोटे लड़के लड़कियां आज भी काम करते हैं, विशेष रूप से वह शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के बच्चे होते हैं। क्या आप इनके लिए एक स्पेशल सर्वे करायेंगे, यह मैं सप्लिमेंटरी प्रश्न आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं? जैसे कनवेंशन की बात कर रहे थे। आई. एल. ओ. कन्वेंशन जेनेवा का जो "राइट्स आफ चिल्ड्रन 1989" का जो अध्याय है, इसके बारे में मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि इस कनवेंशन को जो कंटेंट्स हैं इनका आप अपने यहां पर इम्प्लीमेंटेशन करने का काम करें। आपने अभी कहा कि आप दिल्ली में एक कान्फ्रेंस बुलाने वाले हैं और सब को समझना चाहते हैं, इसके लिए मेरा यह सुझाव है कि यदि थोड़ी सी कार्यवाही हो जाए, चाइल्ड लेबर और बौंडेड चाइल्ड लेबर के बारे में सैपारेशन हो जाए तो उस पर प्रकाश डालने में बहुत सुविधा सब सदस्यों को हो जाएगी।

सभापति महोदय, अभी मेरा सप्लिमेंटरी प्रश्न यह है कि जमींदारों के पास जो छोटे-छोटे लड़के-लड़कियां काम करते हैं, उनके बारे में क्या आप सर्वे करायेंगे? उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में इस प्रकार की बातें विशेष रूप से बहुत दिखलाई देती हैं।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : सवाल उन्होंने कहां किया है, उन्होंने तो धन्यवाद दिया है और बधाई दी है।

श्री सुशीलकुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे : आप बिहार के हैं, आपको ज्यादा पता है। साहू जी भी बैठे हैं प्रश्न पूछने के लिए।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, it is true that the largest number of child labour are found in the agricultural sector, because it is a sector where labour force is the maximum. As of today 63 per cent of our labour force are in the agricultural sector. Recently I had a review meeting on child labour as well as bonded labour with the Secretaries of the Labour Department of the different State Governments. In our review meeting it was revealed that 80 per cent of the bonded labour, who are mainly children, really belonged to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This was revealed in my review meeting. Therefore, we are going to formulate certain policies on that. In this connection, what the hon. Member has said is quite correct.

As far as the ILO conventions are concerned, ILO conventions are not necessarily ratified by all the member-countries because the standards set by the ILO are quite high and many countries are not in a position to ratify them.

Sir, I am just coming from the conference of the Labour Ministers of Asia and the Pacific Region which concluded the day before yesterday, late at night, rather yesterday morning, at Iran. One of the conclusions of the Labour Ministers of Asia and the Pacific Region is the standards set by the ILO conventions are very high. It is not only the developing countries but even the developed countries are also not in a position to ratify them. For example, the most advanced country like the United States of America has ratified only 18 conventions as against 38 conventions ratified by India or 48 conventions ratified by Malaysia. Therefore, this mini conference of the Ministers has urged upon the ILO to review the existing conventions. But what I would like to state here is, whether there is a convention of the ILO or not, the problem of child labour is very, very serious in our country and we must attend to this problem.

I must inform the House that recently we have decided in the Central Advisory Board that this problem has to be tackled gradually. It cannot be done at a time. We have identified 13 States and Union Territories, 9 States and 4 Union Territories. According to the Census figures, the number of child labour is below 20,000. These States are Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli... *(interruptions)*...It is good for the information of the House, Goa, Pondicherry...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Honourable Minister, it is good. But there are so many supplementaries. So if you could send this information to the hon. Member....

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : So we are going to take you that way.

श्री सुशीलकुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे : मैंने बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में स्पेसिफिक पूछा है ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given you too much information.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : I have asked a specific question whether he is going to conduct a survey about the big landlords of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh or not. In these States the child labour is in operation in a big way. May I know from the Minister whether a survey is being done or has to be done ? I want to know whether the Government is interested in conducting this survey or not. That is the only thing which I wanted to know.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, the survey report is available. We have the figures State-wise. But there is a problem of identifying them.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Sir, poverty knows no religion. It is degrading and dehumanising. Its worst abuse is seen in child labour. I am thoroughly disappointed with the main reply as well as the reply to the supplementaries by the hon. Minister. This is not the stage for a national conference. Every one of us knows what the problem is. Every one of us knows how chronic and acute the problem is. Today, we say that children are the future of India. In India, according to the Government statistics, there are 20 million children working when they should be playing and studying. According to unofficial sources, which are more reliable, the figure comes to 50 million and therefore, India carries the shame of having the largest population in the world of child labour. Apart from not fulfilling our obligation under the Constitution for the elimination of child labour, we are also not fulfilling a mandate of our Constitution of providing compulsory primary education to children. The first thing which has to be done is action, no question of review, no question of any conference where the time is wasted in recording only minutes. Is there any action plan making it obligatory on the employers of child labour to provide compulsory education to them ? In this case, it should be a joint effort by the State agencies as well as the employers. Only if there is an action plan,

they will come out of the clutches of bonded labour.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, I share the disappointment of the hon. Member regarding the problem of child labour. I think everyone is disappointed. It is understood. The official figure of child labour is not 20 million, but 17 million. Between 20 million and 17 million, the difference is not much. Still, the number is very large. However, I would like to say that the official figure is 17 million. I do agree with the hon. Member that we must give our attention to the education of children and that it is the only way out. Sir, I have quite a bit of experience in dealing with child labour and my experience shows that it is not going to be a very easy problem to tackle with. I want to bring to the notice of the House an example. In Sivakasi, we tried to give, we gave—I was there—78 women, permanent jobs on the condition that they would not send their children to work or, on the other hand, they would send their children to schools. We opened schools. An agreement was signed in my presence. We got them permanent jobs. For six months, they did not send their children to work. But, after six months, when I went there, they had again sent their children to work. So, it is not an easy problem to tackle. I may mention my visit to Ferozabad also. People were very happy with my visit there. Children were taken out. We opened schools and they went to the schools. I tell you, after two weeks. ... (*Interruptions*). I think the nation should appreciate the problem. Parents come to me and ask, "Why have you visited Ferozabad ? We are not getting work for our children and they are starving." Therefore, I think an action plan, as suggested by the hon. Member, is very important. The Government has an action plan. But it is not very comprehensive. We are formulating another comprehensive action plan to tackle this problem, laying emphasis on education and health. We propose to do it after the proposed national conference.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : A childish reply !

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Thank you.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, the hon. Minister was telling us about his various ventures and adventures in rehabilitating child labour. I do appreciate the effort that he is making. But he has got to realise that the prices of essential commodities have risen and you have legitimised child labour. It was your Government that brought the legislation for legitimising child labour. And, at that time, in this House, I raised the questions as to what your monitoring agencies were and how many cases had been reported. I am asking the questions again. How many cases of misuse of child labour have been reported to you in the past three and a half years to four years, to start with ? What is the percentage of girl child labour because discrimination against the girl child starts in this area ? Would you consider abolition of child labour ? What is the percentage of rise in the population after you have had passed the Bill legitimising child labour ? Sir, as part of the comprehensive plan of this nation, we are planning for an unprepared, unplanned, population. By the legitimisation of child labour, each child is authorised by Government blessings to go and earn a living. And you want to tell the uneducated parent, mother or otherwise, that his or her child will stay at home. Because it is bad for the child and you have raised the prices of essential commodities and have made no alternative arrangements for the job done by the children. I also want to know the percentage of employment undertaken by the children which has replaced adult employment in all these years. Sir, I want specific answers to these questions.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, whether child-labour should be abolished or not, a debate on this took place in this country for more than two decades. Ultimately Mr. Gurupadaswamy who was a Member of this august House was made to head a Committee to go into the formulation of these policies. After all this, we came to the conclusion that we cannot, in a day, straightaway abolish child labour in this country because it has a lot of relevance to the socio-economic problem of our country. Therefore, it cannot be abolished. We took a policy-decision that in certain areas child labour should be abolished and in certain areas it should regulated, abolished in areas where it is hazardous and regulated in areas where it is not hazardous. This was the deliberate policy which was adopted by the Parliament of India.

Now as far as increase of child labour is concerned, yes, there is an increase. If we look at the census, each time we find that there is a gradual increase of child labour in the country. There is no doubt about it. As far as the percentage of girl child labour is concerned, it is one-third of our child labour. It is 33 per cent of the total child labour.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I want to know how many jobs have been replaced by children. ...(*interruptions*)... Sir, he did not answer the third question. I want to know how many jobs have been taken up by children where adults could be employed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I don't think he would have in his hand that information.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I am expecting to get a reply later.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, the problem is whatever may be our reaction, child labour is a reality, either you call it legitimate or you call it illegitimate. Child labour is a reality because of the problem of poverty, because of the problem of unemployment and because of the problem that the nation faces today. Therefore, child labour cannot be wished away. But in a situation where unemployment of child labour is becoming inevitable because of the low earning or no earning of the parents, the Government will, therefore, have to ensure that the problem of child labour is really regulated. Here is the inaction of the Government. We don't want any survey because the problem is identified and I don't compliment the Minister because he has visited the place in 1987, six years back. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the Government would like to do without appointing a commission and convening a conference and without going into further investigation what the Government proposes to do to give the child labour a better deal and to stop the problem of super-exploitation being carried on by these people who call themselves industrialists or traders, what the Government plan is and what they want to do. That is part (a). Part (b) is how that action plan is going to be monitored. Will the Minister make a statement on this ?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, he has not mentioned how many cases were reported and...(*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let the Minister make a reply.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : There should be a national debate on this subject. That is my demand. ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is it ?

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : I demand of the Minister that there should be a national debate on this.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, they don't expect an answer to this. ...(*interruptions*)...*Smt. Sarala Maheshwari*.... (*interruptions*)... You don't want an answer.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, it is not correct that he will not answer... (*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given it very clearly in a socio-economic background of this and out of this you must all understand it.

(*interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, he is refusing to answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not refusing to answer. Give him an opportunity to answer. ...(*interruption*)... Please sit down. Let the Minister answer.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I think the hon. Member is hundred per cent right that we should not wait for a committee meeting or labour conference to do something on child labour. We have been trying to do something. As of today, we have got certain projects. There is one National Child Labour Programme under which we have got 10 projects in areas where child labour is concentrated. Last month we launched a national programme on elimination of child labour which is a programme funded by the Government of Germany through the ILO. We are very ambitious to launch another project of the ILO which we call 'Child Labour Action and Support Programme'. Therefore, the Government is proceeding with various projects. But the only point is that the Government alone will not be able to tackle this problem. We want the involvement of voluntary agencies. In fact, the ILO projects are being executed and implemented by the voluntary organisations as per the recommendations of the Government. As far as the specific issue... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Dumping of stocks in India

*4. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the extent of dumping of stocks in quantity and value itemwise, by foreign companies in India during the year 1992 and the first three months of 1993;

(b) what are the details of the representation made by the P.V.C. Resin Manufacturers Association, Bombay against dumping of stocks by foreign companies;

(c) whether Government propose to impose anti-dumping duties on such imports; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Anti-dumping investigations are made into the pricing policies of exporting companies upon a complaint being filed by the affected domestic industry. Anti-dumping investigations were initiated in three cases concerning import of PVC Resin, Styrene Butadiene Rubber and Bisphenol-A.

PVC Resin Manufacturers Association, Bombay, in the complaint submitted to the Designated Authority in May, 1992 alleged that PVC Resin falling under H.S. Nos. 39041000, 39042102 and 39042109 originating from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Republic of Korea and the U.S.A. was being dumped in India and was causing injury to the domestic industry.

Based on the preliminary findings of the Designated Authority, Government has imposed anti-dumping duty until 1 June, 1993 on PVC Resin falling under H.S. Nos. 39041000, 39042102 and 39042109 originating from all sources in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Republic of Korea and the U.S.A.